(iii) Arrangement/agreement between MNO (Mobile Network Operator) and MVNO to be driven by market forces.

(iv) MVNO to be issued a license under Indian Telegraph Act.

(v) The license service area of MVNO to be same as that of parent MNO.

(vi) Any Indian Company shall be eligible for MVNO License in a service area, who meets prescribed eligibility conditions including networth and paid up capital and fulfills other licence conditions including payment of prescribed entry fee.

(vii) No limit on number of MVNOs attached to a MNO.

(viii) MNO to pay the spectrum charges for utilization of spectrum by MVNO.

(ix) Annual licence fees same as that of MNO of the service area.

(x) Allocation of Numbers, Number portability, Interconnection with other service providers and roaming to be provided by parent MNO.

(xi) Subscribers to be protected on failure of agreement between MNO and MVNO or MVNO quitting service.

(xii) No Roll out Obligations for MVNO.

(xiii) FDI limit 74% (same as MNO)

(c) No timeframe for launch of MVNOs operations can be prescribed as introduction of MVNOs in India is a policy matter.

**Ratio of post offices *vis-à-vis* number of citizens**

18. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of number of post offices *vis-à-vis* number of citizens, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any move to open more post offices for availability of better services at doorstep;

(c) the rate of Tele Density in Jharkhand;

(d) whether there is any planning to increase this existing rate; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Circle-wise details of average number of people served per Post Office are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(b) Postal facilities in terms of regular delivery of mail, clearance of letter boxes and sale of stamps/stationery at the doorstep of customers is provided throughout the country. Opening of Post Offices is an ongoing exercise. Post Offices are provided in a phased manner on the basis of need, justification as per prescribed norms and availability of resources.

(c) The tele-density rate of the State of Jharkhand forming part of Bihar Telecom License Area is, 19.40% (as on 31.05.2009).

(d) and (e) Increasing of tele-density in Jharkhand is an ongoing exercise. The steps in this direction include the following:

(i) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to add 0.95 lakh Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and 8.10 lakh Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) mobile phones during 2009-10 in Jharkhand.

(ii) A scheme has been launched by the Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund to provide support for setting up and managing 278 number of infrastructure sites (towers) in Jharkhand for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. The infrastructure so created shall be shared by three service providers for provision of mobile services. The agreements effective from 01.06.2007 have been signed with the successful bidders in May, 2007. As on 31.05.2009, 227 towers have been set up in Jharkhand under this scheme. Most of the towers under this scheme are likely to be commissioned in a phased manner by September, 2009.

(iii) It is also proposed to provide subsidy support for covering other uncovered areas in the State of Jharkhand through mobile services for which additional towers are being identified. About 703 towers are proposed to be installed under the second phase of the scheme, which is likely to be launched shortly.

(iv) Agreements were signed with M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in March, 2005 for installation of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) to individual customers in the country including the State of Jharkhand. These RDELs were to be installed in 66 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in Jharkhand, where cost of providing telephone connection is more than the revenue earned. The cutoff date for installation of these RDELs which was 31.05.2007 has now been extended to 31.03.2010. As on 31.05.2009, about 38,147 RDELs have been provided in the eligible SDCAs of Jharkhand with subsidy support from USO Fund under this scheme.

***Statement***

*Circle-wise No. of post offices and average population served by a post office as on* 31.03.2008

| Sl. No. | Name of circle | No. of post offices | population served by a PO |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 16149 | 4998 |
| 2. | Assam | 4007 | 7154 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Bihar | 9057 | 10020 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 3123 | 7235 |
| 5. | Delhi | 571 | 28058 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 8970 | 6183 |
| 7. | Haryana | 2653 | 8788 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 2777 | 2324 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1691 | 6470 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 3091 | 9479 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 9826 | 5725 |
| 12. | Kerala | 5070 | 6575 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 8323 | 7977 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 12853 | 8270 |
| 15. | North East | 2934 | 4233 |
| 16. | Orissa | 8162 | 4764 |
| 17. | Punjab | 3911 | 6945 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 10318 | 6036 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 12115 | 5467 |
| 20. | Uttar Pradesh | 17662 | 10377 |
| 21. | Uttarakhand | 2714 | 3397 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 9058 | 9518 |
| | TOTAL | 155035 | 7174 |

**Post offices in Hilly areas**

19. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make post offices village oriented particularly in those located in Hilly States like Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme being formulated by Government to make post offices more useful for the people who are living in Hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The postal system throughout the country is